

S/N: 10/768,723

Atty Dkt No. GP-303333 / GM0420PUS

Remarks

Claims 1-13 and 15-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hoerster (US 6,276,228). Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoerster in view of Roper (US 5,372,026). Claims 10 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoerster in view of Tonoe et al. (US 4,805,522). Claims 11, 12, and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2-7 and 15-18 are allowed.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner indicates that the amendments to the claims made in an Amendment filed May 3, 2006 would not be entered as they raise new issues that would require further consideration. Accordingly, the amendments to the claims presented herein are with respect to the claims as set forth in the Amendment filed December 22, 2005.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claim 11, which is cancelled. Accordingly, claim 1 is now of a scope indicated by the Examiner to be allowable. Because claims 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13 ultimately depend from claim 1, they are also of a scope indicated to be allowable. Claim 19 is amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 20, which is cancelled. Thus, claim 19 is of a scope indicated to be allowable.

Conclusion

The amendments to claims 1 and 19 and the cancellation of claims 11 and 20 are believed to place claims 1, 8-10, 12-13 and 19 in condition for allowance along with allowed claims 2-7 and 15-18, which action is respectfully requested.

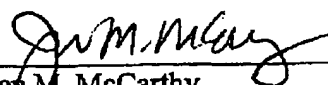
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Respectfully submitted

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By


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